For Immediate Release
Nov. 16, 2001

Media Contact: Stacie Leatherman, (216) 707-2265
sleatherman@clevelandart.org

Friday Evening of Performance and Dance Kicks Off CircleFest Activities at CMA

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) will present the eighth annual **Winter Lights Lantern Festival** — a free event inspired by the centuries-old, cross-cultural tradition of ceremonial lighting displays — Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2, 2001. This festival is CMA's contribution to **Holiday CircleFest** (Dec. 2 from 1 to 6 p.m.), a day of seasonal music, gift shopping, workshops, and refreshments hosted by the University Circle community.

To kick off the lantern festival, CMA will present an artist-created *Environment of Lights* Friday evening on Wade Oval Green, with vocal and dance performances in the installation sites at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. Robin VanLear, CMA's artistic director of community arts and artistic director of Parade the Circle, will create a 12-foot-high lighted sculptural house form made of lacquered canvas stretched over wood that will rest on long, stilt-like legs. Ladders will hang from trees and in the museum's north lobby with Chinese-inspired lanterns, while smaller house forms will be placed in the museum's Indoor Garden Court. The installations will also include a memorial to the fallen firefighters in New York City that will feature 343 flashlights (Bob Huff); illuminated panels of leaded glass layered with photographic transparencies (Alison Egan); glowing transparent spheres with chairs inside them that will hang from trees or rest next to trees (Mark Jenks); and structures that utilize the refractive properties of glass (Mark Sugiuchi). Live vocal music created and performed by Carl Johnson and guest vocalists will enhance the mystical environment. Dancers Leilani Barrett, Nick Carlisle, Micheal Costello, James Holloway, Jennifer Lott, Leila Pelhan, Young Park, Lizzie Roche, and Vivian Vail will be led by choreographer and dancer Bill Wade. Bill Wade is the founder and artistic director of In • Let Dance Theatre. The light installations will remain on view the entire weekend.

Also on Friday evening, the Case Western Reserve University Early Music Singers will perform in the Interior Garden Court at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, the lantern festival will climax with a procession of lantern carriers to Wade Oval Green, where they will encircle the *Environment of Lights*. Open to everyone, the procession will begin from the museum's north doors at 5:30 p.m., led by the vocalist, dancers and invited artists (Anna Arnold, Laurie Garrett, Tanya Gonzalez, Wendy Mahon, Abby Maier, Vanessa North, Maria de Jesús

Paz, Lizzie Roche, Jean Schumacher, Kristin Wade, and Kevin Williams) with their own specially created lanterns. Free workshops to make umbrella lanterns will be offered from 2 to 4:30 p.m.; timed tickets for these workshops will be available in the north lobby beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Lantern displays will be on view in the Interior Garden Court and the north lobby. Lanterns created by invited artists specifically for the procession will be on view in the museum's lower level throughout the weekend. Lanterns will also be available for purchase in the museum store.

Other CircleFest Day Events (all events free)

Nativity tours, led by museum staff, will be offered at 1 and 3 p.m. on Sunday. They will explore images of Jesus's nativity from the early Christian to the Baroque period. Other activities are as follows:

- 1 and 1:45 p.m.: vocal music performed by the Cleveland Music School Settlement's Madrigal Singers.
- 2 to 4:30 p.m.: *Picasso's Studio*, a hands-on, drop-in workshop for all ages
- 2:30 p.m.: seasonal music performed by the Illium Brass with organist Karel Paukert, CMA's curator of musical arts
- 2 to 5 p.m.: costumed Art Crew members portraying Van Dyck's *A Genose Woman with her Child* and Picasso's *Harlequin with Violin* mingle with visitors

Shopping and Refreshments

Unique gifts will be available for purchase in the Museum Store, including items inspired by the major exhibition **Picasso: The Artist's Studio** (through Jan. 6, 2002). The store offers Northeast Ohio's largest selection of fine arts calendars and cards, art books and posters, sculpture replicas, and exclusive lines of fine art jewelry. Handmade lanterns created by museum members, Womens Council members, Hispanic Senior Center members (Cleveland), and students from area high schools will also be available for purchase.

Visitors are invited to snack on gingerbread cookies and warm cider available in the north lobby, or have dinner, pizza, and other fun treats at the Still Lifes Café.

* * *

Institutions presenting **Holiday CircleFest** will be open free of charge from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday in addition to their normal hours. They are the Church of the Covenant, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art, the Cleveland Institute of Music, The Cleveland Public Library (Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Play House, Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church, Judson Manor, Rainbow Children's Museum, Severance Hall, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. For more information about other CircleFest events, visit the University Circle Incorporated Web site at **www.universitycircle.org**.

To receive a **Holiday CircleFest** brochure, call UCI at **(216) 707-5020**. For additional information about CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.

Holiday CircleFest is coordinated by University Circle Incorporated and is sponsored by Cleveland Public Power and The Home Savings and Loan Company. Additional support is provided by Key Bank and Nationwide Insurance. Promotional support is courtesy of 89.7 WKSU-FM, 107.3 The WAVE, *The Plain Dealer*, cleveland.com, *The Free Times*, *Cleveland Magazine* and Greater Cleveland RTA.

Winter Lights Lantern Festival is supported by Dominion.

# # #